United Nations A/C.5/54/15

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 October 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 121
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001: section 23. Protection of and assistance to refugees

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 382 of the report on its thirty-ninth session,[1] the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the Secretary-General revise the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[2] Protection of and assistance to refugees, to take fully into account General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997.

2. In section III, paragraph 82, of resolution 52/220, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to monitor the flow of extrabudgetary resources to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and, based on his findings, to review the funding of the Office from the regular budget above the current proposed level.

3. In paragraph 23.17 of the proposed programme budget, it is stated that a review of the funding of UNHCR from the regular budget would take place on the basis of the outcome of the new categorization of posts in UNHCR, the evolution of UNHCR requirements and the desirability of streamlining and simplifying the budgetary process. It was also indicated that the outcome of that review would be submitted to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

4. Consultations on various elements of the review between the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have been initiated. As requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph VI.22 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] the review will take into account the extent to which past budgetary agreements/disagreements on the role between voluntary contributions and regular resources has contributed to the weak financial situation of the Office. The review will continue in 2000, and its outcome will be submitted to the General Assembly in due course, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The General Assembly may wish to take note of this information.

99-29436 (E) 201099

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/54/16).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. III.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).